In My Skin - My Life On and Off the Basketball Court

Hailed by ESPN as the world’s most famous female basketball player, Brittney Griner, the dunking phenom and national sensation who is shattering stereotypes and breaking boundaries, now shares her coming-of-age story, revealing how she found her strength to overcome bullies and to embrace her authentic self. Brittney Griner, the No. 1 pick in the 2013 WNBA Draft, is a once-in-a-generation player, possessing a combination of size and athleticism never before seen in the women’s game. But “the sport’s most transformative figure” (Sports Illustrated) is equally famous for making headlines off the court, for speaking out on issues of gender, sexuality, body image and self-esteem. At 6’8”, with an 88-inch wingspan and a size 17 shoe (men’s), the Phoenix Mercury star has heard every vicious insult in the book, enduring years of taunting that began in middle school and continues to this day. Through the highs and lows, Griner has learned to remain true to herself, rising above the haters trying to take her down. In her heartfelt memoir, she reflects on painful episodes in her life and describes how she came to celebrate what makes her unique—inspiring lessons she now shares. Filled with all the humor and personality Griner has become known for, In My Skin is more than a glimpse into one of the most original personalities in sports; it’s also a powerful call to readers to be true to themselves, to love who they are on the inside and out. With a 8 pages of photos.

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Hailed by ESPN as the world's most famous female basketball player, Brittney Griner has been shattering stereotypes and breaking boundaries ever since she burst onto the national scene as a dunking high school phenom. Now, she shares her coming-of-age story, revealing how she found the strength to overcome bullies and to embrace her authentic self. Brittney Griner, the No. 1 pick in the 2013 WNBA Draft, is a once-in-a-generation player, possessing a combination of size and athleticism never before seen in women's basketball. But the sport's "most transformative figure" (Sports Illustrated) is equally famous for making headlines off the court, for speaking out on issues of gender, sexuality, body image, and self-esteem. At six foot eight with an eighty-eight-inch wingspan and a size 17 men's shoe, the Phoenix Mercury star and three-time All-American has heard every vicious insult in the book. Bullied for being different, she has endured years of taunting, from middle school to the present day. Through the highs and lows, Brittney has learned to remain true to herself, rising above the haters who try to take her down. The journey has often been lonely. Feeling uncomfortable in her own skin for much of her adolescence, Brittney struggled with anger, the Achilles heel that often got her into trouble, usually with her fists. Her transformation began when she discovered basketball in high school. "The court has almost always been a safe place for me, a space where I can rejuvenate myself," she says. "It has always been the one place I feel free." In this heartfelt memoir, Brittney reflects on painful episodes in her life, from the confrontations she dealt with as a kid, to the infamous on-court punch she threw during her freshman season at Baylor University, to the
final moments of her college career and the crushing loss to Louisville that ended her dream of back-to-back national championships. Brittney also explores her complicated relationships with two people she loves and respects—her father, Ray, and her coach at Baylor, Kim Mulkey—as well as her mixed feelings about playing for a school that has a policy against homosexuality. Here, too, are the highs: Brittney's close bonds with her mother, Sandra, and her supportive siblings and friends; her amazing accomplishments at Baylor, including the team's 74-2 record her last two seasons; her adventurous new life as a pro in the WNBA; and her distinct sense of style, exemplified by the tattoos she proudly wears. Throughout the book, Brittney describes how she came to celebrate what makes her unique—inspiring lessons she now shares with readers. Filled with all the humor and personality that Brittney Griner has become known for, In My Skin is more than a glimpse into one of the most original people in sports; it's a powerful call to readers to be true to themselves, to love who they are on the inside and out.

The Secret Game - A Wartime Story of Courage, Change, and Basketball's Lost Triumph

Winner of the 2016 PEN/ESPN Award for Literary Sports Writing The true story of the game that never should have happened--and of a nation on the brink of monumental change In the fall of 1943, at the little-known North Carolina College for Negroes, Coach John McLendon was on the verge of changing basketball forever. A protégé of James Naismith, the game's inventor, McLendon taught his team to play the full-court press and run a fast break that no one could catch. His Eagles would become the highest-scoring college team in America--a basketball juggernaut that shattered its opponents by as many as sixty points per game. Yet his players faced danger whenever they traveled backcountry roads. Across town, at Duke University, the best basketball squad on campus wasn't the Blue Devils, but an all-white military team from the Duke medical school. Composed of former college stars from across the country, the team dismantled everyone they faced, including the Duke varsity. They were prepared to take on anyone--until an audacious invitation arrived, one that was years ahead of anything the South had ever seen before. What happened next wasn't on anyone's schedule. Based on years of research, The Secret Game is a story of courage and determination, and of an incredible, long-buried moment in the nation's sporting past. The riveting, true account of a remarkable season, it is the story of how a group of forgotten college basketball players, aided by a pair of refugees from Nazi Germany and a group of daring student activists, not only blazed a trail for a new kind of America, but helped create one of the most meaningful moments in basketball history.

Catch a Star - Shining through Adversity to Become a Champion

When all she wanted was to fit in, Tamika Catchings never imagined one day she'd stand out--as a basketball superstar and an inspiration. Catchings faced being set apart by her hearing loss, separation from family, living up to high expectations, and the pain and discouragement of debilitating physical injuries. Yet she reached for the stars with hard work, perseverance, and her faith in God. Through the silence, she found the way to shine. Catch a Star tells Tamika's story of overcoming: of leading the Indiana Fever to its first championship, being named to the WNBA's All Decade Team, earning four Olympic gold medals, and founding the Catch the Stars Foundation to help young people achieve their dreams. Her story will inspire
readers to face their doubts and fears, encouraging them to reach for their own stars, no matter what challenges come their way.

**Proud**

**They Better Call Me Sugar - My Journey from the Hood to the Hardwood**

In unflinchingly honest prose, Sugar Rodgers shares her inspiring story of overcoming tremendous odds to become an all-star in the WNBA. "They Better Call Me Sugar is fabulous--so infinitely readable and engaging. Sugar Rodgers is such a clear-eyed and thoughtful writer and a huge inspiration. There are so many young people I can't wait to give this book to." --Jacqueline Woodson, author of Brown Girl Dreaming, former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature "[Rodgers] now has a new goal: sharing her story with others. She certainly accomplishes that in this raw, compelling memoir of a girl growing up in difficult circumstances but with the wits, confidence, and drive that made her an All-Star. An inspiring autobiography." --Booklist "WNBA champion Rodgers reflects on her childhood and road to athletic glory...Encouraging tidbits will stay with readers, such as, 'Stars are stars because they work hard even when the lights are not on'...This memoir...has a bold bounce." --Kirkus Reviews "Sugar Rodgers's story will be inspirational not only for young girls, not only for young athletes, but for everyone. You never know the mountains people have to climb to reach the level of success they have achieved." --Etan Thomas, former NBA player, author of We Matter: Athletes and Activism "Having had the privilege of playing and working with Sugar Rodgers, I've been blessed with a front row seat to watch her grow into the woman she is today. My hope and prayer is that everyone, both young and old, gets an opportunity to read this book and let Sugar--the athlete, the woman, the survivor--have as much of an impact on their lives as she has had on mine." --Swin Cash, three-time WNBA champion, VP of Basketball Operations with the New Orleans Pelicans "It would be too easy to say that Sugar Rodgers's memoir is a slam dunk. It's more than that--it's a three-pointer from deep. If you want to know what it takes to shoot for your dreams in sports and in life, read this book." --C.J. Farley, author of Around Harvard Square Growing up in dire poverty in Suffolk, Virginia, Sugar (born Ta'Shauna) Rodgers never imagined that she would become an all-star player in the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association). Both of her siblings were in and out of prison throughout much of her childhood and shootings in her neighborhood were commonplace. For Sugar this was just a fact of life. While academics wasn't a high priority for Sugar and many of her friends, athletics always played a prominent role. She mastered her three-point shot on a net her brother put up just outside their home, eventually becoming so good that she could hustle local drug dealers out of money in one-on-one contests. With the love and support of her family and friends, Sugar's performance on her high school basketball team led to her recruitment by the Georgetown Hoyas, and her eventual draft into the WNBA in 2013 by the Minnesota Lynx (who won the WNBA Finals in Sugar's first year). The first of her family to attend college, Sugar speaks of her struggles both academically and as an athlete with raw honesty. Sugar's road to a successful career as a professional basketball player is fraught with sadness and death--including her mother's death when she's fourteen, which leaves Sugar essentially homeless. Throughout it all, Sugar clings to basketball as a way to keep herself focused and sane. And now Sugar shares her story as a message of hope and inspiration for young girls and
boys everywhere, but especially those growing up in economically challenging conditions. Never sugarcoating her life experiences, she delivers a powerful message of discipline, perseverance, and always believing in oneself.

**Breaking Through - Beating the Odds Shot After Shot**

On the surface, Chamique Holdsclaw's memoirs, Breaking Through, is an inspiring behind-the-scenes glimpse of what it's like to play professional women's basketball. It's got the thrills, the spills, and the locker room gossip that any sports fan longs to read about and be privy to. Holdsclaw takes her readers on a whirlwind tour of life as a WNBA star, from the streets of New York to the streets of the world. From Astoria to Tennessee to Spain to Poland and eventually winding up in Atlanta, we follow Chamique up and down the court of life until we too are winded from the back-and-forth. But when we stop to catch our breath, we realize this is much more than another sports book. New York features prominently in these pages-its successes, its heartbreaks, its projects and its swanky gyms. The relative security and safety of Holdsclaw's life at Christ the King High School in Queens stands in sharp contrast to her tales of life in the nearby projects, where alcoholism, drug abuse, petty crime and despair have a strong foothold in the rundown buildings and darkened bus stops. But Holdsclaw does not dwell; she does not sulk. She doesn't have the time, frankly, for we soon find that the life of a young basketball star is full of constant action. From sunup to sundown, Holdsclaw is practicing, shooting, running and negotiating. The decision about which college to attend is almost as harrowing for the readers as it is for Holdsclaw herself, and we breathe a sigh of relief when she makes what is obviously the right choice. And though we meet Jay-Z and Gabrielle Reece and many other famous sports stars on these pages, the personality we most remember is that of Holdsclaw's grandmother and guardian. She is the calm in Holdsclaw's storm, the light that shines into and illuminates the dark tunnels of choices no child should have to make. June Holdsclaw's steadfast surety is something every child would be fortunate to have, and her granddaughter's testament to her faith and love resonates in these pages. As Holdsclaw grows up and trades in the streets of New York and a busted up pair of hi-tops for the rigors of academia at the University of Tennessee, the burdens of success become more apparent. The stress of being a star on the court takes its toll mentally, academically, and of course, physically, but Holdsclaw bravely dribbles past these obstacles and fights to stay on top. Which isn't to say she doesn't have her distractions-from boys to friends to tough-as-nails coaches like Pat Summitt, Holdsclaw's busy life bustles and buzzes throughout Breaking Through, making the pages hum with vitality. And only when Holdsclaw's health fails her, when her team slows down and the winning streak seems to be over, does she come to realize that what's essential in basketball-and of course, in life-isn't speed, or strength, or who you know, or how hard you work, but balance: the fine line between not enough and too much, between carefree and careless. She finally finds hers, and that's what makes this book the powerful read that it is. At its core, Breaking Through is a testament to the places and people that make us whole and keep us sane-it's a shout out to hard work, love, faith and equilibrium.

**The Fab Five - Basketball Trash Talk the American Dream**

Recounts the remarkable story of University of Michigan basketball players Chris Webber, Jalen
Rose, Juan Howard, Jimmy King, and Ray Jackson, and chronicles their success in the NCAA tournaments of 1992 and 1993.

**Won't Back Down - Teams, Dreams, and Family**

Whether on a baseball field as the only girl on an all-boys team in Hammond, Louisiana, or on a basketball court where her play-making ability was compared to Louisiana legend Pistol Pete Maravich, Kim Mulkey was a young athlete so gifted she was named to Parade magazine’s 1980 All-America High School Girls Basketball team. Mulkey went on to win two national championships at Louisiana Tech, as well as a gold medal with the 1984 U.S. Women’s Olympic basketball team. She served as an assistant coach on Louisiana Tech’s 1988 national championship, then turned around Baylor University’s women’s basketball program by coaching them to a national championship in a mere five years. In Won’t Back Down, Mulkey reveals the many trials she has overcome, and how her children and her coaching have sustained her in her most difficult moments.

**Don't Let the Lipstick Fool You**

Foreword by Earvin "Magic" Johnson "Absolutely one of the best players ever to play the game." --Bill Walton A three-time Olympic gold medalist, three-time MVP of the WNBA, and the first woman ever to dunk in a professional basketball game, Lisa Leslie is considered one of the greatest players in the history of women's basketball. But before the superstar was the child growing up too fast in South Central Los Angeles. Over six feet tall in the sixth grade, with a father Lisa never knew, and a sister she couldn't trust, her life seemed destined to go nowhere fast--another failed statistic in the American dream. Today, Lisa is a poised, beautiful, assertive, six-foot-five-inch basketball powerhouse. Her elegance and charm have made her a favorite with fans, the fashion world, and even Hollywood. With hard-won candor and confidence, Lisa Leslie shares in her own words her empowering story about finding grace under pressure, and exceeding expectations--including your own--by playing like a girl. "There are a lot of young girls out there who look up to Lisa Leslie. I think it's great that they can look at Lisa and say we don't have to make sacrifices." --Sheryl Swoopes, Houston Comets and U.S. Olympic Team "Lisa is doing for women what Michael Jordan has done for young men." --Michael Cooper, Lakers great and L.A. Sparks head coach "She has it all: beauty, brains, and athleticism. She brings class, fashion, and she's sassy in her own way. She has all that and the championship rings to back it up." --Nancy Lieberman, ESPN analyst and Hall of Famer "Lisa Leslie is absolutely one of the best players ever to play the game. She is a leader who works hard, plays hard, and carries herself with incredible poise, grace and dignity. She is an icon and a perfect role model." --Bill Walton, ESPN commentator and NBA Hall of Famer Larry Burnett is an Emmy award-winning journalist and sports broadcaster. He has known Lisa for fifteen years and has been the radio and television play-by-play announcer for her L.A. Sparks’ games for the past nine seasons. Burnett has anchored Sports Center and The NBA Today Show for ESPN, and he has hosted the Lakers’ radio broadcasts and The Phil Jackson Show.

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Chicago wins first WNBA title with 80-74 win over Phoenix

Vandersloot then scored in the lane to seal the victory and set off the celebration. As the final buzzer sounded, Parker sprinted to the corner of the court ... for life now." Brittney Griner ...
Suns owner Robert Sarver accused of racism, sexism, verbal abuse in bombshell report
Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver made misogynistic comments to female subordinates — once asking 'do I own you?' — and frequently used the n-word, according to a bombshell report detailing ...

On brink of first title, Sky look to ‘punch’ out Mercury
THE Chicago Sky are one victory away from their first Women’s National Basketball Association ... the second fewest in a Finals game and Brittney Griner (16 points) was the only Mercury scorer ...

El Rancho Market IGA
Carolina's tortillas are made in-house and arrive fresh off the grill nice and hot ... sharp teeth and bald, pink skin. And there have been plenty of sightings near metro Phoenix.

Los Altos Ranch Market
Carolina's tortillas are made in-house and arrive fresh off the grill nice and hot ... sharp teeth and bald, pink skin. And there have been plenty of sightings near metro Phoenix.

Yahoo Experts
Let's see what's new and noteworthy across the fantasy basketball landscape now that Thanksgiving is in the rearview mirror. "Here’s the mic drop: LeBron hasn't been able to three-peat."